## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 072194 ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:EMFEATHERSTONE:EH APPROVED BY EA/J:WCSHERMAN DOD/ISA/EAPR:COL. WRBARRETT EA/P:MSMITH USIA:JSWENSON

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O R 012302Z APR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY
INFO COMUS YOKOTA JAPAN
CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 072194

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MEDIA SEEKS TIBBETTS INTERVIEW

**REF: STATE 071515** 

1. APPARENTLY SPURRED BY NEWS OF FORTHCOMING CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE SHOW IN LOUISIANA (REFTEL) SOME HIROSHIMA-BASED MEDIA TELEPHONED BG (RET.) PAUL W. TIBBETTS, ENOLA GAY PILOT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO ASK FOR INTERVIEW. BG TIBBETTS, AN ACTIVE CAF MEMBER, CALLED DEPARTMENT TO PASS ON THIS INFORMATION AND TO SAY THAT HE HAD INITIALLY AGREED TO TALK TO JAPANESE IN COLOMBUS, OHIO; HOWEVER, HE SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO CONCLUDE THAT JAPANESE MEDIA UNCLASSIFIED

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REPS HAD POOR COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND WOULD LIKELY NOT UNDERSTAND HIM WELL. BG TIBBETTS IS WARY OF BEING MISQUOTED OR MISUNDERSTOOD AS APPARENTLY HAS BEEN CASE WITH BOTH JAPANESE AND US MEDIA IN PAST.

2. DEPTOFF SUGGESTED THAT AN INTERVIEW WITH JAPANESE MEDIA COULD ONLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR US-JAPANESE

RELATIONS AND FOR BG TIBBETTS HIMSELF AND THAT RESULTING ARTICLE OR PROGRAM HAD POTENTIAL FOR CREATING SERIOUS

MISUNDERSTANDING. BG TIBBETTS AGREED. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE INTERVIEW BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PASS THIS WORD TACTFULLY AND RELIABLY TO HIROSHIMA MEDIA, WHO MAY BE PREPARING TO DEPART JAPAN SHORTLY.

- 3. BG TIBBETTS SAID THAT "HIROSHIMA PRESS" CALLER HAD IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS OKADA AND HAD PROVIDED HIROSHIMA TELEPHONE NUMBER: 082-228-7599. BG TIBBETTS SAID THAT "HIROSHIMA TV" HAD ALSO CALLED HIM FROM JAPAN UTILIZING INTERPRETING SERVICES OF UNIDENTIFIED US MILITARY PERSON. BG TIBBETTS WAS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND ANY OF NAMES GIVEN. BG TIBBETTS SAID THAT HE TOLD BOTH PARTIES THAT HE DID NOT PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN APRIL 3 LOUISIANA AIR SHOW AND SUGGESTED THAT JAPANESE ATTEND LARGER OCTOBER CAF SHOW IN TEXAS INSTEAD. PLANS OF JAPANESE WERE NOT CLEAR.
- 4. BG TIBBETTS ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR DEPT TO CONVEY TO HIROSHIMA MEDIA HIS PREFERENCE FOR DECLINING AN INTERVIEW ON SUBJECT OF THE A-BOMB. WE REALIZE THAT THIS MIGHT BE AWKWARD BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES VIEWS ON WHETHER THIS IS FEASIBLE AND, IF SO, PASSING WORD APPROPRIATELY TO HIROSHIMA MEDIA. WE HAVE ASKED BG TIBBETTS TO DECLINE ANY FURTHER INTERVIEW REQUESTS AND TO LET US KNOW IF HE IS CALLED AGAIN. IF HIROSHIMA MEDIA REPS HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED JAPAN, WOULD APPRECIATE UNCLASSIFIED

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KNOWING ITINERARIES IF THIS INFO IS READILY AVAILABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Subject: JAPANESE MEDIA SEEKS TIBBETTS INTERVIEW

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, JA, US, CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE-CAF, (TIBBETTS, PAUL W)
To: TOKYO OSAKA KOBE

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